

PRIORITY GROUP OF
Candidates for PSB Staff Director

Philip Davison

Frank Stanton

Wallace Carroll

Richardson K. Wood

Mr. Davison believes that Mr. Wood is the best bet -- see
his attached memo.

MAY 21 1951

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION held in the CIA Conference Room,
Administration Building, 16 May 1951, at 1400 hours

SUBJECT: Psychological Strategy Board (PSB)

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Allen Dulles, CIA
Rear Admiral Leslie C. Stevens, JCS
General John L. Magruder, OSD

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[REDACTED] CIA
[REDACTED] CIA
Mr. Philip Davison, State ✓
Mr. Leon Gratcher, State
Lieut. Colonel T. R. Philbin, JCS ✓
Lieut. Colonel P. C. Davis, Army

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[REDACTED] CIA

1. Action: An interdepartmental working group under the chairmanship of Mr. Huber was appointed to develop a paper on the organization and functions of the Psychological Strategy Board.

2. The matter of the relationship of the PSB to the NSC was mentioned and it was agreed that the Board should discuss this problem at an early meeting. There is a possible confusion because the PSB was set up by Presidential directive although it will report to the NSC. There may also be some conflict with NSC-10/2.

3. Discussion: It was understood that the new PSB should not get into overly detailed planning. It will approve ideas proposed by existing agencies and will advance its own original proposals. It will probably not meet very much but will still be able to give valuable and needed guidance to the operating agencies. It was thought that there would still be a big job to be done by IP10.

4. General Magruder presented his conception of the organization and function of the PSB and distributed a draft paper which set forth his tentative views in detail.

5. Mr. Davison commented that he saw four functions for the Board: (a) National planning, (b) "wheel-greasing," (c) Evaluation, and (d) Coordination at a high level. To this list Colonel Davis suggested the addition of an item on the application of the best techniques.

6. Mr. Dulles stated that he had not conceived that the Board would be set up with regional specialists, since they would be in competition with the existing agencies.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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7. General Magruder acknowledged that the organization could not start full grown and that in the beginning many of the functions of the Board would have to be performed within the operating agencies.

8. Admiral Stevens suggested that since the eventual size and duties of the Staff are in dispute we should bypass some of the arguments for the present and try to get a practical paper on what can be done now with the two or three people actually available. He further stated his disagreement with the planning concept in General Magruder's paper. He felt that the functions referred to by General Magruder are already placed squarely on the shoulders of responsible officials. He did not see any need to interpret NSC papers into guidances for the departments. In his conception the PSB could give top direction by setting priorities and needing departments to do what needs to be done. He also looked to the PSB as having decision-making powers, referring matters where necessary to the NSC.

9. It was suggested also that the Board could help get qualified personnel from industry and elsewhere and put them to the best use in psychological operations.

10. It was agreed that the functions of the staff should be those that are not being done elsewhere and cannot be delegated. There was some disagreement as to whether or not the working group should attempt to sketch the organization of the Staff as it might ultimately develop.

11. [REDACTED] suggested that the working group should shy away from any thought of a "Charter" which would require formal departmental concurrence. Rather they should develop a paper which would be informally accepted by the Board as indicating the general lines which they would probably follow. [REDACTED] also suggested that the working group discuss the role of a group of senior consultants or deputies to the Board members. The thought also was advanced that the Board should screen public and Congressional inquiries and suggestions and act as a focal point and figurehead for the national psychological effort.

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